

Willingness to Dropout among Pregnant Teenage Learners in South African High Schools

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ABSTRACT The study investigated the impact of the discrimination against pregnant teenage learners and their willingness to drop out of school. It uncovered pregnant learners' non - attendance of school activities and absenteeism, their knowledge on Sexual Transmitted Infections and HIV, and the extent of their knowledge and use of preventative contraceptives. Using the survey strategy, data was collected from a sample 70 students (n = 70), using a questionnaire. Scales were computed by means of the Principal Components Analysis (PCA). Correlational analyses on the relationships between variables were carried out through bivariate correlations. The results showed that a preponderance of teenagers between the ages of 16 to 19 became pregnant. It was further revealed that pregnancies were due to learners' limited knowledge about, and use of contraceptives. The results further showed that pregnant learners experienced varying levels of discrimination among other learners, which made them consider quitting education. It was recommended on the basis of research findings that learners must be taught about the importance of using contraceptives to prevent early pregnancy and, consequently, the propensity of girls to drop out of school.